

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on June 21, 2007. Prior to this paper, claims 1-36 were pending. By this paper, Applicant cancels 1-5, 9, 10, 13-21, and 28-30, and adds claims 37-47. Therefore, claims 6-8, 11-12, 22-27 and 31-47 are now pending.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for allowing claims 22-27 and 31-33, and for indicating that claims 7 and 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In reliance on this indication, Applicant has incorporated the recitations of claim 10 into claim 6.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. In response, in order to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant amends these claims, and requests reconsideration.

Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for proposing claim amendments to these claims to alleviate the rejections; claim amendments that Applicant has embraced.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 13-21¹ and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Massie (United States Patent No. 6,727,806). In response, in order to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-5, incorporated the recitations of claim 10 into claim 6, cancelled claims 9 and 13-21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of these claims is now moot.

¹ Note that at one point in the Office Action, it is stated that claims 9-21 are rejected, but no reason for the rejection of claims 10-12 is given, and the Office Action states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 37-47. Claim 37 recites some of the recitations of allowed claim 23, and is believed to include recitations that make claim 37 allowable for at least the pertinent reasons that make claims 23 allowable. Claims 38-47 recite additional recitations that further differentiate the present invention from the prior art.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to the Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Nguyen is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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